

CITY OF ROMULUS
Department of Building & Safety
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POOL INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

The following is an overview of the requirements for installing pools and hot tubs in the City of Romulus. Additional information can also be found in the 2015 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC) and the 2015 Michigan Residential Code (MRC), Chapter 42 Swimming Pools. If you have any questions regarding pool installation and wiring, please contact the Romulus Department of Building & Safety (734-942-7550). **NOTIFY 'MISS DIG' AT 800-482-7171 PRIOR TO INSTALLATION.**

A. Location:

Romulus Zoning Ordinance, Article 3, Section 3.04 (c) Pools & Hot Tubs:

1. Pools and hot tubs shall only be located in a rear yard or non-required side yard. Pools and hot tubs shall not be located in a front yard or required side yard setback. Pools and hot tubs shall be at least ten (10) feet from the rear lot line and meet the side yard setbacks of the district.
2. There shall be at least six (6) feet between the outside pool wall and any building located on the same lot. Hot tubs may be adjacent to the dwelling.

B. Barrier Requirements; 2015 ISPSC:

Section 305.2.9 Clear Zone: There shall be a clear zone of not less than 36 inches between the exterior of the barrier and any permanent structures or equipment such as pumps, filters and heaters that can be used to climb the barrier.

Section 305.3.3 Latches: Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches from grade, the release mechanism shall be located on the pool or spa side of the gate not less than 3 inches below the top of the gate, and the gate and barrier shall not have openings greater than ½ inch within 189 inches of the release mechanism.

Section 305.4 Structure wall as a barrier: Where a wall of a dwelling or structure serves as part of the barrier and where doors or windows provide direct access to the pool or spa through that wall, one of the following shall be required:

- (1) Operable windows having a sill height of less than 48 inches above the indoor finished floor and doors shall have an alarm that produces an audible warning when the window, door or their screens are opened. The alarm shall be listed and labeled as a water hazard entrance alarm in accordance with UL 2017. In dwellings or structures not required to be Accessible units, Type A units or Type B units, the operable parts of the alarm deactivation switches shall be located 54 inches or more above the finished floor. In dwellings or structures required to be Accessible units, Type A units

or Type B units, the operable parts of the alarm deactivation switches shall be located not greater than 54 inches and not less than 48 inches above the finished floor.

- (2) A safety cover that is listed and labeled in accordance with ASTM F1346 is installed for the pools and spas.
- (3) An approved means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices, is provided. Such means of protection shall provide a degree of protection that is not less than the protection afforded by Item 1 or 2.

Section 305.5 Onground residential pool structure as a barrier: An onground residential pool wall structure or a barrier mounted on top of an onground residential pool wall structure shall serve as a barrier where all of the following conditions are present:

- (1) Where only the pool wall serves as the barrier, the bottom of the wall is on grade, the top of the wall is not less than 48 inches above grade for the entire perimeter of the pool, the wall complies with the requirements of Section 305.2 and the pool manufacturer allows the wall to serve as a barrier;
- (2) Where a barrier is mounted on top of the pool wall, the top of the barrier is not less than 48 inches above grade for the entire perimeter of the pool, and the wall and the barrier on top of the wall comply with the requirements of Section 305.2;
- (3) Ladders or steps used as means of access to the pool are capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access except where the ladder or steps are surrounded by a barrier that meets the requirements of Section 305;
- (4) Openings created by the securing, locking or removal of ladders and steps do not allow the passage of a 4 inch diameter sphere;
- (5) Barriers that are mounted on top of onground residential pool walls are installed in accordance with the pool manufacturer's instructions.

C. Wiring requirements:

2015 MRC, Section E4203.6 Overhead conductor clearances:

1. Except where installed with the clearances specified in Table E4203.5 (overhead conductor clearances), the following parts of pools and outdoor spas and hot tubs shall not be placed under existing service-drop conductors, overhead service conductor, or any other open overhead wiring; nor shall such wiring be installed above the following:
 - (1) Pools and the areas extending not less than 10 feet horizontally from the inside of the walls of the pool;
 - (2) Diving structures and the areas extending not less than 10 feet horizontally from the outer edge of such structures;
 - (3) Observation stands, towers and platforms and the areas extending not less than 10 feet horizontally from the outer edge of such structures.

2015 MRC, Section E4203.7 Underground wiring: No underground wiring can pass within five (5) feet of the pool or hot tub. If underground wiring passing less than five feet is approved by the Dept. of Building & Safety because of area constraints, it must be installed in conduit approved for this purpose by the 2015 MRC (Chapter 42).

2015 Section E4204 Bonding: Section E4202 Bonding is attached for your reference.

TABLE E4203.7 (680.10)
MINIMUM BURIAL DEPTHS

WIRING METHOD	UNDERGROUND WIRING (Inches)
Rigid metal conduit	6
Intermediate metal conduit	6
Nonmetallic raceways listed for direct burial and under concrete exterior slab not less than 4 inches in thickness and extending not less than 6 inches (162 mm) beyond the underground installation	6
Nonmetallic raceways listed for direct burial without concrete encasement	18
Other approved raceways ^a	18

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

a. Raceways approved for burial only where concrete-encased shall require a concrete envelope not less than 2 inches in thickness.

SECTION E4204 BONDING

E4204.1 Performance. The equipotential bonding required by this section shall be installed to reduce voltage gradients in the prescribed areas of permanently installed swimming pools and spas and hot tubs other than the storable/portable type.

E4204.2 Bonded parts. The parts of pools, spas, and hot tubs specified in Items 1 through 7 shall be bonded together using insulated, covered or bare solid copper conductors not smaller than 8 AWG or using rigid metal conduit of brass or other identified corrosion-resistant metal. An 8 AWG or larger solid copper bonding conductor provided to reduce voltage gradients in the pool, spa, or hot tub area shall not be required to be extended or attached to remote panelboards, service equipment, or electrodes. Connections shall be made by exothermic welding, by listed pressure connectors or clamps that are labeled as being suitable for the purpose and that are made of stainless steel, brass, copper or copper alloy, machine screw-type fasteners that engage not less than two threads or are secured with a nut, thread-forming machine screws that engage not less than two-threads, or terminal bars. Connection devices or fittings that depend solely on solder shall not be used. Sheet metal screws shall not be used to connect bonding conductors or connection devices: [680.26(B)]

1. Conductive pool shells. Bonding to conductive pool shells shall be provided as specified in Item 1.1 or 1.2. Poured concrete, pneumatically applied or sprayed concrete, and concrete block with painted or plastered coatings shall be considered to be conductive materials because of their water permeability and porosity. Vinyl liners and fiberglass composite shells shall be considered to be nonconductive materials.

1.1. Structural reinforcing steel. Unencapsulated structural reinforcing steel shall be bonded together by steel tie wires or the equivalent. Where structural reinforcing steel is encapsulated in a nonconductive compound, a copper conductor grid shall be installed in accordance with Item 1.2.

1.2. Copper conductor grid. A copper conductor grid shall be provided and shall comply with Items 1.2.1 through 1.2.4:

1.2.1. It shall be constructed of minimum 8 AWG bare solid copper conductors bonded to each other at all points of crossing.

1.2.2. It shall conform to the contour of the pool.

1.2.3. It shall be arranged in a 12-inch (305 mm) by 12-inch (305 mm) network of conductors in a uniformly spaced perpendicular grid pattern with a tolerance of 4 inches (102 mm).

1.2.4. It shall be secured within or under the pool not more than 6 inches (152 mm) from the outer contour of the pool shell. [680.26(B)(1)]

2. Perimeter surfaces. The perimeter surface shall extend for 3 feet (914 mm) horizontally beyond the inside walls of the pool and shall include unpaved surfaces, poured concrete surfaces and other types of paving. Perimeter surfaces that extend less than 3 feet (914 mm) beyond the inside wall of the pool and that are separated from the pool by a permanent wall or building 5 feet (1524 mm) or more in height shall require equipotential bonding on the pool side of the permanent wall or building. Bonding to perimeter surfaces shall be provided as specified in Item 2.1 or 2.2 and shall be attached to the pool, spa, or hot tub reinforcing steel or copper conductor grid at a minimum of four points uniformly spaced around the perimeter of the pool, spa, or hot tub. For nonconductive pool shells, bonding at four points shall not be required.

Exceptions:

1. Equipotential bonding of perimeter surfaces shall not be required for spas and hot tubs where all of the following conditions apply:

1.1. The spa or hot tub is listed as a self-contained spa for aboveground use.

1.2. The spa or hot tub is not identified as suitable only for indoor use.

1.3. The installation is in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and is located on or above grade.

1.4. To top rim of the spa or hot tub is not less than 28 in. (711 mm) above all perimeter surfaces that are within 30 in. (762 mm), measured horizontally from the spa or hot tub. The height of nonconductive external steps for entry

to or exit from the self-contained spa is not used to reduce or increase this rim height measurement.

2. The equipotential bonding requirements for perimeter surfaces shall not apply to a listed self-contained spa or hot tub located indoors and installed above a finished floor.
 - 2.1. Structural reinforcing steel. Structural reinforcing steel shall be bonded in accordance with Item 1.1.
 - 2.2. Alternate means. Where structural reinforcing steel is not available or is encapsulated in a nonconductive compound, a copper conductor(s) shall be used in accordance with Items 2.2.1 through 2.2.5:
 - 2.2.1. At least one minimum 8 AWG bare solid copper conductor shall be provided.
 - 2.2.2. The conductors shall follow the contour of the perimeter surface.
 - 2.2.3. Splices shall be listed.
 - 2.2.4. The required conductor shall be 18 to 24 inches (457 to 610 mm) from the inside walls of the pool.
 - 2.2.5. The required conductor shall be secured within or under the perimeter surface 4 to 6 inches (102 mm to 152 mm) below the sub-grade. [680.26(B)(2)]
3. Metallic components. All metallic parts of the pool structure, including reinforcing metal not addressed in Item 1.1, shall be bonded. Where reinforcing steel is encapsulated with a nonconductive compound, the reinforcing steel shall not be required to be bonded. [680.26(B)(3)]
4. Underwater lighting. All metal forming shells and mounting brackets of no-niche luminaires shall be bonded. [680.26(B)(4)]

Exception: Listed low-voltage lighting systems with nonmetallic forming shells shall not require bonding. [680.26(B)(4) Exception]
5. Metal fittings. All metal fittings within or attached to the pool structure shall be bonded. Isolated parts that are not over 4 inches (102 mm) in any dimension and do not penetrate into the pool structure more than 1 inch (25.4 mm) shall not require bonding. [680.26(B)(5)]
6. Electrical equipment. Metal parts of electrical equipment associated with the pool water circulating system, including pump motors and metal parts of equipment associated with pool covers, including electric motors, shall be bonded. [680.26(B)(6)]

Exception: Metal parts of listed equipment incorporating an approved system of double insulation shall not be bonded. [680.26(B)(6) Exception]

 - 6.1. Double-insulated water pump motors. Where a double-insulated water pump motor is installed under the provisions of this item, a solid 8 AWG copper conductor of sufficient length to make a bonding connection to a replacement

motor shall be extended from the bonding grid to an accessible point in the vicinity of the pool pump motor. Where there is no connection between the swimming pool bonding grid and the equipment grounding system for the premises, this bonding conductor shall be connected to the equipment grounding conductor of the motor circuit. [680.26(B)(6)(a)]

- 6.2. Pool water heaters. For pool water heaters rated at more than 50 amperes and having specific instructions regarding bonding and grounding, only those parts designated to be bonded shall be bonded and only those parts designated to be grounded shall be grounded. [680.26(B)(6)(b)]
7. All fixed metal parts including, but not limited to, metal-sheathed cables and raceways, metal piping, metal awnings, metal fences and metal door and window frames. [680.26(B)(7)]

Exceptions:

1. Those separated from the pool by a permanent barrier that prevents contact by a person shall not be required to be bonded. [680.26(B)(7) Exception No. 1]
2. Those greater than 5 feet (1524 mm) horizontally from the inside walls of the pool shall not be required to be bonded. [680.26(B)(7) Exception No. 2]
3. Those greater than 12 feet (3658 mm) measured vertically above the maximum water level of the pool, or as measured vertically above any observation stands, towers, or platforms, or any diving structures, shall not be required to be bonded. [680.26(B)(7) Exception No. 3]

E4204.3 Pool water. Where none of the bonded parts is in direct connection with the pool water, the pool water shall be in direct contact with an approved corrosion-resistant conductive surface that exposes not less than 9 in.² (5800 mm²) of surface area to the pool water at all times. The conductive surface shall be located where it is not exposed to physical damage or dislodgement during usual pool activities, and it shall be bonded in accordance with Section E4204.2.

E4204.4 Bonding of outdoor hot tubs and spas. Outdoor hot tubs and spas shall comply with the bonding requirements of Sections E4204.1 through E4204.3. Bonding by metal-to-metal mounting on a common frame or base shall be permitted. The metal bands or hoops used to secure wooden staves shall not be required to be bonded as required in Section E4204.2. [680.42 and 680.42(B)]

E4204.5 Bonding of indoor hot tubs and spas. The following parts of indoor hot tubs and spas shall be bonded together:

1. All metal fittings within or attached to the hot tub or spa structure. [680.43(D)(1)]
2. Metal parts of electrical equipment associated with the hot tub or spa water circulating system, including pump